IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT APPLICATION

HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION FOR GRAVE MEMORIAL

Docket No. FSE-100-A

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Background of the Invention

The field of the invention relates to memorial markers for a deceased individual, such as for graves and urns. More particularly, the present invention relates to a system for a grave marker/headstone/gravestone for a deceased and/or an urn that contains crematorial remains. The system provides commemorative information concerning the deceased individual.

Since the earliest days, commemorative information about a deceased individual has been sought to be placed near the resting place of the deceased individual. Etching has been placed on a gravestone or a plaque added to the gravestone or to an urn to commemorate the life of a deceased. Generally, the information available in this manner has been basic factual information such as the date of birth of the individual and the date of death of the individual. For bereaved persons seeking to give more information about the deceased individual, options have been limited. Thus, a better solution to this problem was needed.

Summary of the Invention

The invention is a system for a grave marker or for an urn to memorialize a deceased individual. The system has equipment that can be part of a gravestone or part of an urn. The system includes an electrical system for displaying a holographic image of a deceased. The holographic image may be 3-D and is projected onto the ground, into the air in the vicinity of the grave or the urn. 3-D holography employs diffracted light from a laser-illuminated digital micro-mirror devices (DMDs). A virtual image in 3-D is created at a finite distance.

A solar energy panel or conventional electric source can power a battery or a capacitor to operate the system for use with a grave marker. In the case of an urn, which may be displayed in a home environment, conventional 110-volt electric power may be used as the power source with an A/C adapter to step the power down as needed. A solar panel could be positioned on the stand on which an urn is placed for use as a back-up power system.

Because the holographic image appears to have three dimensions, the image of the deceased seems to have physical substance. The addition of sound heightens the sensation.

The image displayed can be captured in a digital format from an existing photograph or a home movie. The individual may wish to record the memorial prior to the individual's passing. The

image can be revised through a memory slot provided to the system and accessible through an access panel. A switch may be used to operate the system. A proximity sensor could also be used to operate the system when a visitor approaches.

Audible information can also be conveyed by the use of a sound file and a speaker. The deceased's voice and a music background could be advantageously employed herein. Inspirational messages/readings could be used also. A memory card/slot allows the information to be changed.

It is advantageous to the bereaved of the deceased individual to have comfort provided due to such as this invention. This invention can remind the bereaved of the loved one.

It should be noted that the device of the invention provides commemorative information to a viewer of the grave marker or the urn. This access afforded by this invention provides solace to the bereaved. No effort is required by a bereaved to view or hear the information if a proximity sensor is employed. Moreover, owners of deceased pets can beneficially employ this invention as a memorial.

For a more complete understanding of the present invention, reference is made to the following detailed

description when read with in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters refer to like elements throughout the several views, in which:

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 illustrates an environmental view of the system in conjunction with a funerary urn for displaying an image;

FIG. 2 illustrates an partial view of a holographic projector creating an image on a virtual panel; and

FIG. 3 illustrates the system used in conjunction with a grave marker having solar panels for powering the device.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Now turning to the drawings, the system 10 for conveying information about a deceased individual is thereshown in FIGs. 1 through 3. Holographic projector 12 projects image 14 of deceased individual 16 stored in memory 18 as shown in FIG.1. Holographic projector 12 is contained within base 20. Funerary urn 22 contains the remains of individual 16. Funerary urn 22 is placed on base 20. Image 14 can be 3-D and holographic projector 12 is powered by A/C current through A/C adapter 24. The power source can be household current. Switch 25 operates the system and can be a proximity sensor (not shown) to operate the system when a visitor approaches.

Now turning to FIG. 2, holographic projector 12 is better shown as being at a ground level 26 thereby indicating a position near the base 28 of gravestone 30 (better shown in FIG. 3). Holographic projector 12 projects image 14 onto virtual hologram panel 32.

System 10 is depicted with gravestone 30 in Fig. 3. Solar panel 34 (or multiple solar panels 34 as is needed to power system 10) is positioned on the gravestone 30 to receive solar energy to power system 10. Battery 36 stores solar energy from solar panel 34 for operating system 10. Speaker 38 delivers audible information. Speaker 38 is powered by energy from solar panel 34. Access panel 40 allows access to holographic projector 14 and to memory card 18 for revisions to information.